

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This communication is in response to the Decision on Appeal of 5/31/2011. Accordingly, Claims 1-14, 21-23, 27-31 are currently pending in the application.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Cory Claassen on 8/2/2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

2. -Claim 8 line 1, the phrase "A computer program product, tangibly embodied in a computer-readable medium" has been changed to -- A computer program product, tangibly embodied in a non-transitory computer-readable medium --.
3. -Claim 12 line 3, the phrase "remove the inserted vector from the header data of the received packet" has been changed to -- remove the inserted vector from header data of the received packet --.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-14, 21-23, 27-31 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

4. 1, 8, 21 are allowable over the prior art of record since the cited references taken individually or in combination fail to particularly disclose when detecting that the at least one other packet forwarding device in the stack is to receive the packet before reaching the identified destination device, inserting a vector in the received packet, wherein the vector includes data that identifies the identified destination device and the at least one other packet forwarding device in the stack of packet forwarding devices to receive the packet. It is noted that the closest prior art, Weyman et al. (US 20030147412), in view of Abali et al. (US 5721820) discloses a cascaded stack of routing units each of which routes packets that it receives at its external ports and in which a packet entering the stack and requiring routing is routed by the unit that receives it and is thereafter bridged to its egress port. However the stated prior art fails to disclose or render obvious to the above underline limitations as claimed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NGUYEN NGO whose telephone number is (571)272-8398. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 10am - 7 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kwang Yao can be reached on (571)272-3182. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/KWANG B YAO/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2473

/N. N./
Examiner, Art Unit 2473